

Message Text

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11

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R 231741Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4608

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13415

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR, GW, VN

SUBJECT FRG RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET-NAM

IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE SEA DIRECTOR, BERENDONCK, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FRG CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIET-NAMESE AIMED AT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BERENDONCK SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER OFFICIAL CONTACTS BUT THAT THE NORTH VIET-NAMESE HAD RECENTLY PUT OUT AN INTERESTING FEELER THROUGH AN UNOFFICIAL CHANNEL. A MEMBER OF A WEST GERMAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN NORTH VIET-NAM TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, HAD MET WITH THE DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE IN THE NORTH VIET-NAMESE FONOFF. THE LATTER HAD ASKED HIS

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GERMAN INTERLOCUTOR TO CARRY A MESSAGE TO BERENDONCK

TO THE EFFECT THAT NORTH VIET-NAM WAS NOW PREPARED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE FRG "ON THE SAME BASIS ON WHICH THE FRG HAS ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIALIST STATES." BERENDONCK OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD APPEAR TO IMPLY THAT THE NORTH VIET-NAMESE HAVE NOW ACCEPTED THE NECESSITY OF SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE FRG'S REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN, A POINT ON WHICH THEY HAD HITHERTO REFUSED TO COMMIT THEMSELVES IN ANY WAY IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WHAT BERENDONCK COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WAS WHY, IF THE NORTH VIET-NAMESE WERE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL, THEY HAD NOT MADE IT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED OFFICIAL CHANNEL IN PARIS. BERENDONCK SAID THAT, FOR HIS PART, HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO RESPOND OR TO MAKE ANY FURTHER MOVES AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE MENTIONED THAT A DELEGATION OF NORTH VIET-NAMESE WOULD BE VISITING THE FRG IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AGAIN TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WITH PRIVATE DONOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT A MEMBER OF THAT DELEGATION MIGHT ASK TO SEE HIM IN ORDER TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

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